

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
GREENVILLE DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLAINTIFF

V.

NO. 4:22-CV-97-DMB-JMV

ALEXIS BATES

DEFENDANT

ORDER

On June 30, 2022, the United States of America filed a complaint against Alexis Bates in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi seeking “treble damages and civil penalties under the False Claims Act (‘FCA’) ... and to recover money for common law or equitable causes of action for payment by mistake and unjust enrichment based upon Bates’s receipt of Paycheck Protection Program (‘PPP’) funds to which she was not entitled.” Doc. #1 at PageID 1. The complaint alleges that Bates, through false representations, received PPP loan proceeds totaling \$20,832.00 (for which the Small Business Administration paid \$2,500 in processing fees to the bank involved) and that Bates, also through false representations, obtained forgiveness of those loans by the SBA. *Id.* at PageID 6–7.

On July 19, 2022, the parties filed a “Joint Motion for Entry of Consent Judgment” representing that they “have agreed to resolve [this] litigation” and “to the entry of a consent judgment on the terms provided in the attached [proposed consent judgment].” Doc. #4; *see* Doc. #4-1. The joint motion and the proposed consent judgment are both signed by an Assistant United States Attorney and by Bates who appears pro se. Doc. #4; Doc. #4-1 at PageID 17.

Generally, before entering a consent judgment, also called a consent decree, courts must decide whether it represents a reasonable factual and legal determination based on the facts of record, whether established by evidence, affidavit, or stipulation. Courts must also ascertain that the settlement is fair and that it does not violate the Constitution, statutes, or jurisprudence. In assessing the

propriety of giving judicial imprimatur to the consent decree, the court must also consider the nature of the litigation and the purposes to be served by the decree.

Jones v. Gusman, 296 F.R.D. 416, 428–29 (E.D. La. 2013) (cleaned up).

The Court has reviewed the proposed consent judgment—which requires Bates to pay \$23,485.35 plus interest and a \$400.00 filing fee—and finds that it represents a fair and reasonable factual and legal determination based on the facts of record. The Court also concludes that the proposed consent judgment does not violate the Constitution, statutes, or jurisprudence. Finally, the proposed consent judgment is consistent with the nature of this litigation. Accordingly, the “Joint Motion for Entry of Consent Judgment” [4] is **GRANTED**. The parties’ proposed consent judgment will be signed and entered by the Court

SO ORDERED, this 21st day of July, 2022.

/s/Debra M. Brown
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE